

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time during an interview on January 18, 2006, during which applicant and the Examiner discussed the differences between preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service provider in the context of portable mobile phone numbers and preventing unauthorized switching of long distance carriers in the context of a plain old telephone networks (POTS). During this interview, the Examiner agreed that he would consider amended claims that more clearly emphasize these differences. Further details regarding the substance of the interview may be found below. If the Examiner Phuong believes that any additional information regarding the interview is necessary, please let the undersigned attorney know.

Claims 1, 8, 16, 20, 28, 29, 30, and 35 have been amended. Claim 11 has been canceled. All the independent claims now recite claim elements relating specifically to implementation of unauthorized switching of mobile service providers in the context of mobile phone number portability in a mobile communications network. For example, claims 1, 8, 16, 20, 28, 29, 30, and 35 now recite technical details associated with preventing unauthorized porting of a phone number in a mobile communication system (e.g., "wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider" or similar language). Support for the claim amendments is found, for example, at pages 3 and 4 of applicant's Specification (e.g., at paragraphs [0016] – [0020]).

The Examiner rejects Independent claims 1, 8, 16, 20, 28, 29, 30, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kim (Pub. No. 2004/0053610) in view of Chiczewski (Pub. No. 2004/0252821). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. While Kim generally discusses number portability in a mobile communication network and Chiczewski discusses specific techniques for long distance anti-slamming in a plain old telephone network, there is no mention in either Kim or Chiczewski of unauthorized porting of phone numbers in a mobile communication system, let alone any discussion about how such unauthorized porting could be prevented. In fact, Kim is fairly limited in that it fails to even describe the steps involved in setting up a portable mobile directory number to work with a new service provider. Rather, Kim focuses on how calls are routed through a network after porting has already occurred.

More specifically, the combination of Kim and Chiczewski does not disclose, among other claim elements, any of the following:

- "a customer data subsystem for storing customer data records, wherein the customer data records include authorization information associated with a request by the customer to prevent unauthorized porting of the portable phone number, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider" (claim 1);

- "analyzing a customer data record to determine whether the customer has authorized the requested porting by providing authorization information known by the customer, wherein the analyzing prevents unauthorized porting . . . and if the customer has authorized the requested porting, storing in the at least one data store a record of a new association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number, wherein the record of the new association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes an association between the portable phone number and a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider, and wherein the routing number allows calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider" (claim 8); "receiving a request to prevent unauthorized porting of a portable phone number assigned to a customer, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number, including associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider" (claim 16);
- "based on the request for porting, sending a message to the customer, wherein the message requests that the customer provide authorization for the request for porting so that unauthorized porting can be prevented, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the

unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider" (claim 20);

- "means for receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number wherein associating the second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider, and wherein the routing number allows calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider and means for analyzing a customer database to determine whether the customer has authorized the requested porting, wherein the means for analyzing prevents unauthorized porting" (claim 28);
- receiving from a mobile communications service provider or a third party administrator, a notification of an option to prevent unauthorized switching of the first mobile service provider to a second mobile service provider, wherein the source has at least partial control of the switching, and wherein the wherein the unauthorized switching comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store, wherein creating the association between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number

with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider" (claim 29);

- "based on the request for porting, determining whether the customer has requested protection from unauthorized porting, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store, wherein creating the association between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider" (claim 30);
- "receiving from a source a message requesting customer authorization for switching from the first mobile service provider to a second mobile service provider, wherein the source is associated with the first mobile communications service provider or a third party administrator, and wherein the source has at least partial control of the switching, and wherein the switching from the first mobile service provider to the second mobile service provider includes creating an association between the second mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store accessed as a result of a call placed by dialing the portable phone number being routed through a switching center to a signal transfer point of the mobile communications network, wherein creating the association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number

includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider" (claim 35).

Further, there is nothing in either Kim or Chiczewski that suggests the combination of the two references. Because applicant's invention is implemented in a mobile communication network (and not a plain old telephone network) simply applying the long-distance anti-slamming technology disclosed in Chiczewski to prevent unauthorized porting of mobile numbers is not technologically feasible given the major differences in how these different types of telephone systems are implemented, as well as the major differences between how long-distance slamming occurs versus how unauthorized porting occurs. Because of this technological infeasibility, the combination of the two references is not appropriate. Moreover, because Kim does not suggest the possibility of unauthorized switching of mobile service providers, there is no suggestion/motivation provided in Kim to combine the two references.

Overall, none of the applied references, singly or in any motivated combination, teach or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 8, 16, 20, 28, 29, 30, and 35, and thus such claims are allowable. Since these independent claims are allowable, based on at least the above reasons, the claims which depend from them are likewise allowable. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found. In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3925.

Applicant believes a two months extension of time fee is due with this response. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 364388083US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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